

• New Machines and Gadgets •

☼ **A NEW FIXTURE** for fluorescent lights cancels glare from the bottom of fixtures and redirects the light over the ceiling. By improved reflecting materials and different design, the manufacturer states that a uniform brightness is obtained in the entire field of vision, lessening eye strain.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

☼ **AN IMPROVED** inter-office communication system permits any number of stations to hold a private conference without interruption or eavesdropping from stations outside the conference group. When a conferee is called, he is signalled by a light that the call is waiting. If he is busy, the caller receives a busy signal light. The unit is operated by push button controls. Each station has individually controlled volume. With earphones, the system may be used like a telephone. Peak efficiency is claimed with units as far as 3,000 feet from one another.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

☼ **RECORD AMOUNTS** of cellulose acetate plastic are now being used for transparent sections of gliders and training ships. Sheets are easily formed into cockpit enclosures and gun turrets. The plastic also has many other war uses, such as shatter-resistant windshields, windows and gas mask lenses.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

☼ **AN IMPROVED MATCH** book has been patented which ignites each match as it is withdrawn from the folder but prevents stray sparks from reaching other matches in the book. These pull-matches will be safe to use and inexpensive to manufacture, the inventor maintains.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

☼ **TAILORED PROTECTIVE** clothing for women welders styled according to accepted dressmaker patterns, is now on the market. Made of chrome-tanned cowhide, the new apparel is light in weight, yet gives positive protection against sparks, the manufacturer states. A leather cap, looking somewhat like a bathing cap, completes the outfit.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

☼ **THE NEW PHOTOELECTRIC** color grader shown in the picture, rapidly inspects rosin, naval stores products and other resins. The instrument eliminates errors of human color graders which are due to eye fatigue, and is



accurate despite dirt or surface imperfections of the samples analyzed. The apparatus, consisting of a light source, colored glass filters, and a photocell, has a wide range of applications, the inventor points out.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 141.

MEDICINE

Breathing Rhythm Change Sign of Impending Death

➤ A SIGN of impending death in patients with malignant high blood pressure has been discovered in a change of breathing rhythm believed never before described.

Announcement of this discovery is made by Dr. H. O. Gunewardene, radiologist at General Hospital in Colombo, Ceylon, in the *British Medical Journal* (Oct. 3).

Even when the patient does not look seriously ill, Dr. Gunewardene reported, duration of life in the cases he has observed is not more than six weeks after the changed breathing rhythm sets in. He describes the patient's changed breathing as follows:

• RADIO

Saturday, February 6, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Robert W. Rodman, editor of the practical edition of the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, will discuss quinine.

Monday, February 1, 9:15 a.m., EWT; 2:30 p.m., CWT; 9:30 a.m., MWT; and 1:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Fighting Infections" will be the subject of the program.

"The patient is generally quiet and lies flat on the back without a suggestion of the breathlessness of the cardiac (heart) type which previously had been well marked. A little restlessness, not continuous, is often observed; he opens his mouth frequently and breathes as though he is yawning half-heartedly. Occasionally he is irrational. Sometimes there is maniacal excitement; at other times a little drowsiness suggestive of a uraemic state. Uraemic twitching or convulsions were not observed.

"These variations in the respiratory rhythm in association with malignant hypertension have not been described before, so far as I can gather from the literature available in Ceylon. Their cause has yet to be explained."

Science News Letter, January 30, 1943

In prewar days 95% of the olive oil consumed in this country was imported.

A typical place-name in British-held Madagascar is Andranomanjakelhibe (not to be pronounced "Wipers").

There are more than 74 million cattle on U. S. farms and ranches today, said to be the largest number in history.

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